



Attorney Docket No. NITT.0052

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RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 18, 2003, the period for response to which is set to expire on June 18, 2003. Please amend portions the above identified application with the replacement paragraphs/sections/claims as follows:

Please cancel claim 5 without prejudice or disclaimer, and substitute claims 1-4 and 6-14 with the following amended claims:

- degrading, by pyrophosphates, pyrophosphoric acid contained in a reagent used for extension reaction of a DNA primer hybridized to a target nucleic acid through a complementary binding, and/or degrading, by apyrase, adenosine 5'-triphosphate contained in the reagent;

removing or inactivating the pyrophosphates and/or the apyrase in the reagent after the degrading step;

conducting the extension reaction; and

detecting pyrophosphoric acid generated by the extension reaction after the